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PLYMOUTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER.

DR. T. TAIRSON

FOR THE YEAR 1954.

GENERAL.

This report is in the form and sequence prescribed for Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Port Health Authorities by the Ministry of Health, Form Port 20, dated October, 1952.

The tonnage of vessels which entered the port during the year was 2,088, 036, as compared with 2,[illegible],356 in 1953.

SECTION I - STAFF.

TABLE [illegible].

Telephone number of Port Health Office is now Plymouth 62821 - Extension 245 (by day), otherwise NO CHANGE.

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector.	
Foreign Ports	587	1,979,217	164	357	9
Coastwise	1,094	708,819	-	916	-
Total	1,681	2,688,036	164	1,273	9

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE C.

Passenger Traffic

Number of passengers INWARDS - 20,120

Number of passengers OUTWARDS - 3,716

The Total number of passengers remaining on board passenger-carrying vessels entering the Port of Plymouth (exclusive of those shown above) was 40,499.

Cargo Traffic.

Principal IMPORTS

Foreign :

Fertilisers from Antwerp and Hamburg.
Phosphates from Sfax, Casablanca, Antwerp and Rouen.
Potash from Hamburg, Antwerp and Bremen.
Basic Slag from Rouen and Dunkirk.
Potatoes from Treguier.
Onions from Roscoff and Rotterdam.
Fresh Fruit from Holland and France.
Preserved Meat from Holland.

General foodstuffs from Holland.
Timber from Vancouver, Gothenburg, Kotka and Kemi.
Grain from Vancouver, Antwerp and Rouen.
Oyster shells from Frederikssund.
Fuel Oil from Trinidad.
Coal from Rouen and Dunkirk.

Coastal :

Coal from South Wales and North-East Ports.
Vaporizing Oil, Gas Oil, Petrol, Kerosene and Paraffin from Fawley, Humble and Swansea.
Motor Oil and Fuel Oil from Humble, Avonmouth, Thameshaven and Fawley.
Fertilisers and Phosphates from Middlesborough, London and Immingham.
Cement and Asphalt from London and Shoreham.
Grain from Avonmouth and Newport (I.o.M.).
Potatoes from Belfast, Londonderry, Kilkeel and Dundrum.
Fish from Deep Sea Fishing Grounds.
Margarine, Peas, Soups, Cooking Fats, Syrup, Tinned Fruit, Flour, Jam, Biscuits, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit and Custard Powder from Liverpool.
Coffee, Tinned Vegetables, Cereals, Apples, Soups, Tinned Milk and Meat from Glasgow and Belfast.
Oats from Aberdeen.

Principal Exports :

China Clay and Granite Chippings.

Principal Ports from which ships arrive :

Asia and Australasia.	Europe.	America.	Africa.
Hong Kong	Amsterdam	Buenos Aires	Beira
Rangoon.	Antwerp	Curacao	Cape Town
Wellington (N.Z.)	Bayonne	Kingston (Ja.)	Casablanca
Brisbane.	Bergen	New York	Sfax
	Bordeaux	Paramaribo	Takoradi
	Bremen	Port Limon.	
	Brest	Philadelphia	
	Calais	Quebec	
	Delfzyl	Valparaiso	
	Dunkirk		
	Gibraltar		
	Gothenburg		
	Guernsey		
	Jersey		
	Kotka		
	Le Havre		
	Oslo		
	Roscoff		
	Rotterdam		
	Rouen		
	St. Malo		
	Treguier		

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC.

There is no inland barge traffic at the Port.

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

Paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) - NO CHANGE.

Paragraph (4) - With regard to paragraph 24 (a) of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, instructions have been issued that, in general, a ship which during its voyage has been in an infected area, need not be detained at a mooring station provided it appears "clean" and the answers to the Health Questions on the Declaration of Health are all in the negative.

Paragraph (5) - NO CHANGE.

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX.

(1) Isolation Hospitals available.

The first case or cases would be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital, Liskeard, Cornwall (Telephone : Liskeard 2385), staffed from the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth, (Telephone ; Plymouth 64311 and 61437. Physician-Superintendent : Dr. D. F. Johnstone).

Should it appear likely that more extensive accommodation would be required, arrangements would be made for the Lee Mill Smallpox Hospital, at present used for convalescent orthopaedic cases, to be re-opened as a Smallpox Hospital.

(2) Arrangements for the transport of cases to hospital.

The launch "ARGUS" of the Plymouth Port Health Authority based at Millbay Docks, Plymouth (Telephone : Plymouth 62821, Ext. 245 by day, and Plymouth 61441 at night and week-ends) is available to transport cases from ship to shore. Ambulances of the Plymouth City Council's Ambulance Service (Telephone : Plymouth 64101) are available to transport cases to hospital.

(3) Smallpox Consultants.

Plymouth and Cornwall :	Dr. D.F. Johnstone, Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. Telephone : Plymouth 64311, 61437 and 63358.
Devon and Cornwall :	Dr. [illegible].A. Lister, 7, The Crescent, Plymouth. Telephone : Plymouth 65701 and Devonport 40.
Devon and Cornwall.	Dr. C. Seward, 20, West Southernhay, Exeter. Telephone : Exeter 2110 & Exmouth 41[illegible]6.

(4) Facilities for the Laboratory Diagnosis of Smallpox.

Materials for the collection of specimens from suspected cases are always available at the Port Health Office, Plymouth. Specimens would be forwarded to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W. 9.

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE.

Location of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease, and days and hours of attendance.

No CHANGE.

During the year, 72 British and 11 Foreign seamen (Total 83), were treated at the Venereal Disease Clinic.

The Nationalities were as follows :-

British.....72
Dutch..... 6
Finnish..... 3
Canadian..... 1
Norwegian..... 1

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS.

TABLE D.

Category	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Chicken-pox Measles Mumps Pneumonia	1 2 1 1	- - - -	1 2 1 1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Mumps Measles	3 2	- -	3 1
Cases landed from other ships.	-	-	-	-

SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS.

There were no cases of malaria brought to notice in ships arriving at Plymouth during the year.

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.

No plague infected or suspected ships entered the Port during the year.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

(1) All ships arriving at the various wharves are boarded by the Port Health Inspector and Rodent Operator. Enquiries are made of the officers and crew as to evidence of rat infestation. Foremen Stevedores are also questioned as to the presence of rats. Where rat infestation is found, trapping or poisoning is carried out by the Rodent Operator.

(2) All rats caught are destroyed, and specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth. No rats were found on vessels entering the port during the year.

(3) Deratting of ships is carried out by fumigation with hydro-cyanic acid gas. These fumigations are carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Health Authority.

The names of Commercial Contractors who have carried out the fumigation of vessels at this Port are :-

1. Fumigation Services Ltd., Barking, Essex.
2. London Fumigation Co., London, E.C. 3.

Small infestations are dealt with by the Local Authority's Rodent Operator, using "Warfarin".

(4) It is pleasing to note that rat-proofing principals have been adopted in the construction of new vessels.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

NIL.

Rodents destroyed in docks, quays, wharves and warehouses.

Category.	Number.
Black rats	87
Brown rats	273
Sent for examination.	5
Infected with Plague	-

Number of mice destroyed by poisoning .. 456.

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Number of Deratting Certificates issued				Total	Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.	Total Certificates issued.
After fumigation with		After trapping	After poisoning			
HCN.	Other fumigant (state method)					
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7
-	-	-	-	-	32	32

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951.

Under the above Regulations, 3 Rodent Control Certificates were issued to coastal vessels found free from infestation with rats and mice.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections.	Notices served		Result of serving Notices.
	Statutory Notices.	Other Notices.	Complied with.
1,273 vessels.	-	14	11

SECTION XIV - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 & 1948.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

Paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) - NO CHANGE.

Paragraph (4) - During the year, the number of incoming aliens was 8,475. The number of outgoing aliens was 329.

Paragraph (5) - NO CHANGE.

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

NO CHANGE.

Infectious Diseases.

No major infectious disease occurred within the area of the Authority during 1954.

Cases landed at the Port :

1. 25th February. One British passenger, suffering from Pneumonia was landed from the S.S. "CITY OF PORT ELIZABETH", and proceeded by rail to Bournemouth.

2. 1st May. One British passenger, suffering from measles, was landed from the S.S. "ANTILLES", and proceeded by rail to London.

3. 20th May. One American passenger, suffering from measles, was landed from the S.S. "LIBERTE" and proceeded by car to Torcross, Devon.

4. 12th November. One British passenger, suffering from mumps was landed from the S.S. "COLOMBIE", and admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth.

5. 26th November. One British passenger, suffering from chicken-pox was landed from the S.S. "ANTILLES", and proceeded by rail to London.

Cases of non-infectious disease were dealt with as follows:-

1. 2nd January. One of the crew of the S.S. "EDINBURGH CASTLE" was landed, suffering from asthma, and admitted to the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

2. 9th January. One of the crew of the Dutch vessel, S.S. "AMSTELSTROOM", was landed, suffering from concussion, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

3. 26th January. One Goanese member of the crew of the British tanker "CEDARDALE", who died on board with a duodenal ulcer, was landed, and removed to the City Mortuary, Plymouth.

4. 1st March. One of the crew of the American vessel, S.S. "EAST POINT VICTORY" was landed, suffering from inflenza and pleurisy, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

5. 20th March. One British passenger, suffering from endocarditis was landed from the S.S. "ANTILLES", and proceeded by rail to Guy's Hospital, London.

6. 20th March. One British passenger, suffering from bronchitis was landed from the S.S. "ANTILLES", and proceeded by car to Salop.

7. 14th April. One British passenger wo died on board the S.S. "LIBERTE" from heart disease, was landed, and proceeded by rail to London for burial.

8. 6th May. One British passenger, suffering from complications of pregnancy, was landed from the S.S. "DEVONSHIRE", and admitted to the Royal Naval Hospital, Stonehouse, Plymouth.

9. 14th May. One of the crew of the American vessel, S.S. "COLOMBIA HEIGHT", was landed, suffering from appendicitis, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

10. 14th May. One of the crew of the American vessel, S.S. "COLOMBIA HEIGHT", suffering from kidney disease, was landed and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

11. 15th May. Two British passengers, suffering from insanity was landed from the S.S. "ITALIA", and admitted to Moorhaven Hospital, Bittaford.

12. 12th June. One British passenger was landed from the S.S. "ITALIA" suffering from insanity, and admitted to Moorhaven Hospital, Bittaford.

13. 12th June. One British passenger was landed from the S.S. "ITALIA" suffering from hysteria, and proceeded by rail to London.

14. 18th June. One British passenger, suffering from a fractured right humerus, was landed from the S.S. "CITY OF PORT ELIZABETH" and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

15. 18th June. One British passenger, suffering from phlebitis, was landed from the S.S. "CITY OF PORT ELIZABETH" and proceeded by rail to Surrey.

16. 2nd July. One of the crew of the French fishing trawler, S.S. "MICHEL FRANCOIS", was landed, suffering from appendicitis, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

17. 11th July. One British passenger, suffering from a foot injury was landed from the S.S. "DESIRADO", and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

18. 5th August. One American passenger, suffering from a fracture of the right humerus, was landed from the S.S. "ILE DE FRANCE" and admitted tothe South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

19. 7th August. One American passenger, who died on board the S.S. "ITALIA" from coronary thrombosis, was landed, and proceeded to Rhyl, Wales, for burial.

20. 7th August. One British passenger, suffering from insanity, was landed from the S.S. "ITALIA", and admitted to Moorhaven Hospital, Bittaford.

21. 4th September. One British passenger, suffering from insanity, was landed from the S.S. "ITALIA" and proceeded by rail to Dundee.

22. 4th September. One British passenger, suffering from insanity, was landed from the S.S. "ITALIA" and admitted to Moorhaven Hospital, Bittaford.

23. 12th September. One of the crew of the S.S. "DEPTFORD" suffering from inflammation of the ear, was landed, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

24. 25th September. One Norwegian member of the crew of the M.V. "VENUS" was landed, suffering from abscess of the neck, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

25. 5th October. One British member of the crew of the S.S. "CALTEX MOZAMBIQUE" was landed, suffering from a duodenal ulcer, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Devonport.

26. 6th October. One German passenger, suffering from acute mania, was landed from the S.S. "AMERICAN SHIPPER" and admitted to Moorhaven Hospital, Bittaford.

27. 21st November. One Canadian passenger, suffering from chronic epilepsy, was landed from the S.S. "LOCH AVON" and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

28. 27th November. One British member of the crew of the S.S. "LAURENTIAN HILL" was landed, suffering from burns, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

29. 3rd December. One of the crew of the Costa Rican vessel S.S. "CAPITAN DIMITRIS" was landed, suffering from a crushed finger, and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

30. 12th December. One British passenger, suffering from a septic leg, was landed from the S.S. "LEICESTERSHIRE" and admitted to the South Devon & East Cornwall Hospital, Devonport.

31. 30th December. One of the crew of the American vessel S.S. "JAMES ROBINSON" was landed, suffering from an eye injury, and admitted to the Royal Eye Infirmary, Plymouth.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Food Inspection.

During the year, 297 vessels were dealt with under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 & 1948. There were 109 from foreign ports, and 188 coastwise.

The total amount of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unsound, unwholesome and unfit for human consumption consisted of :-

10 bales of dried fish	10 cwt.
3 cases of Sultanas	3 qtrs.
7 tins of evaporated milk	7 lbs.
Total:-	10 cwt 3 qrs 7 lbs.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1948.

The following specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Greenbank, Plymouth, for examination:-

Nature of Specimen.	From.	Examined for.	Result.
Drinking water	Water Boat "ENA"	B. Coli	No B.Coli per 100 ml.
3 Black rats	Various warehouses	Plague	No evidence of Plague.
2 Brown rats	-do-	Plague	-do-

Conclusion.

During the year, 47 tankers were dealt with under the Tanker Section (Operation and Supervision, Ltd.) & Ltd. There were no other tankers, owing, and for [illegible].

The total amount of Tonnage actually [illegible] or [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible], [illegible] for [illegible] for [illegible] consisted of :-

1. Sales of [illegible]	.. ..	14 ships.
[illegible]	.. ..	[illegible] ships.
[illegible]	.. ..	[illegible] ships.

Total :- [illegible] ships.

On motion the [illegible] Tanker Sub Section [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible], and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], etc., as [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible].

The following statement [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]